For the library

Medical Officer's Annual Report of the Alnwick Urban District Council for 1922.

GENTLEMEN—

The following Report for 1922 will be an Ordinary Report—that is to say, one of a simple character.

General Statistics.

The population of the Urban District, estimated at the 30th of June, 1922, is 7,016; and the area of the District, 4,777 acres. The population varies very little from year to year.

The estimated number of inhabited houses is 1723, being 25 more than in 1921.

The Rateable Value is £30,548, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £121.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

The Total Births numbered 195 as compared with 160 for 1921, and 166 for 1920, and the Birth Rate=27·93 per thousand per annum.

Of the Births 91 were males and 104 females.

Eight males and eleven females were illegitimate.

1922 Birth Rate for Alnwick.....27·93.
1922 Birth Rate for England and Wales..20·6.

The Total Deaths numbered 93 as compared with 106 for 1921 and 116 for 1920, and the Death Rate=13·25 per 1,000 per annum.

Of the deaths 50 were males and 43 females.

1922 Death Rate for Alnwick.....13·25
1922 Death Rate for England and Wales ....12·9

The following are the causes of death at all ages:—

Whooping Cough	1	Ulcer of Stomach	2
Influenza	5	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	3
Tubercular Diseases	2	Cirrhosis of Liver	2
Cancer	13	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4
Diabetes	1	Accidents of Pregnancy	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9	Congenital Conditions	1
Heart Disease	5	Suicide	1
Arterio-Sclerosis	4	Other deaths from violence	2
Pneumonia	7	Other Defined Diseases	21
Other Respiratory Diseases	2		

From the above it will be noted that there were no deaths from Typhoid, Puerperal Fever, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria.

Infantile Deaths.

The deaths in infants under one year of age numbered 18. Of these ten were in males and eight in females. Two of the deaths were in illegitimate children.

The Infantile Death Rate=92·30 per 1,000.

Infantile Death Rate for 1922 .....92·30
Infantile Death Rate for 1921 .....112·50
Infantile Death Rate (England and Wales) 1922..77

Infantile Diarrhœa caused three deaths, but there were no deaths from measles during the year.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Thirty two cases of notifiable Diseases occurred during the Year made up as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	22	Tubercular Meningitis	1
Diptheria	4	Erysipelas	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4		

Thirteen of the Scarlet Fever Cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the remaining Cases as well the other Diseases being treated at their respective homes.

In all cases of infectious disease, the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector visit the houses of the persons affected, and any sanitary defect is attended to. Whilst Pneumonia is a notifiable disease I do not think that this is known by the practitioners in the Town as although seven deaths from this disease took place during the year, no cases were notified to the Medical Officer.

It is probable that more cases of Tubercular disease occur than are notified.

Causes of Sickness.

The General Health of the Town during 1922 has been good. In January there was an epidemic of Influenza of a mild character, and in February and March a few cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, whilst in December a mild epidemic of Mumps made its appearance. No cases of Smallpox appeared in the District.

That no death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis took place during the year, is both satisfactory and worthy of note.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions.

Nursing.—Two district nurses live in the Town, and there is also a General Infirmary.

Infectious cases, if unable to be nursed at home, can be removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The Fever Hospital.—This is maintained by the Urban District Council and contains 3 beds and 3 cots in both male and female wards.

The Smallpox Hospital.—This is situated in the Rural District and maintained by both the Urban and Rural District Councils. The accommodation is 12 beds.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Urban Council maintains a cab for the removal of infectious cases, and there is a motor ambulance for non-infectious cases maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural Councils.

Laboratory Work.—Pathological specimens are examined and reported on by the Bacteriological Department of the Northumberland County Council. Sera and Vaccines are supplied by the Council to neccessitous cases.

Sanitary Administration.

The details of the work of the Sanitary Inspector is appended :—

Food.—The places where food is prepared are inspected periodically. A case of tubercular meat was found at the slaughter house and the meat was destroyed.

Slaughter Houses.—There are no private slaughter houses in the Urban District. A Public Abattoir, consisting of ten slaughter houses, is owned by the Urban Council, and this has been inspected periodically.

Disinfection.—Stoving under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector is carried out after all cases of Infectious Disease, and disinfectants are supplied free of cost.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have all been inspected during the year and no action has been neccessary under the "Order."

The new registers have been compiled as required by the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922.

Public Health Staff.—This consists of a Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor.

Water Supply.—During the year the water supply of the Town has been well maintained. The Council have under consideration the provision of new filter beds at the Low Service Reservoir.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total.....25.

(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme.....24.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.—Total number of houses inspected for housing defects..... 71

(Under Public Health or Housing Acts.)

Action under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied....9.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied....8.

Summary.

The year under review has been quite satisfactory from a Public Health point of view. More children have been born and fewer deaths have taken place than in 1921 ; whilst the absence of cases of Typhoid Fever speaks well for the sanitary arrangements.

The Infantile Death rate is also lower than it was last year, for although the same number of deaths took place, nevertheless there were more infants born, and the death rate is calculated on the number of deaths per thousand births.

The water supply has also been satisfactory, largely due to the fact that it was an exceptionally wet year.

An infant welfare centre continues to work in the town, and has now been taken over by the County Council.

I append the report of the Sanitary Inspector, and have to thank him for his help in carrying out the work of the sanitary department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Obediently,

B. TREVOR ROPER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
M.O.H.

Urban District Council Offices,
Alnwick,
March, 1923.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit to you a summary of my work as Sanitary Inspector for the year 1922. These particulars are all recorded by me in the "Inspector's Journal."

The summary is a copy of the return which has been sent to the County M.O.H.

PARTICULARS.	Inspections made.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.
Structural Defects	25	15	11
Unfit for Human Habitation	17	—	—
Defective Spouting	130	37	46
Dampness	2	1	1
Insufficient Water Supply	2	—	—
Foul Drainage	44	30	30
Dilapidated Drainage	4	3	3
Defective W.C.s	34	15	17
Foul W.C.s	264	25	31
Dairies and Cowsheds	27	1	1
Slaughter Houses	33	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	14	1	1
Bake Houses	10	—	—
Other Workshops	13	7	3
Animals Improperly Kept	17	7	7
Paving of Yards	5	3	2
Other Nuisances	6	2	2
Totals	647	147	155

JOHN TEMPLE ROBSON, F.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.